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Message Text

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73
ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-02 H-02 AID-05 IGA-01 PRS-01 /053 W
---------- 119317
R 131307Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4580
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 3181

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MACP, MICI, MASS, JO
SUBJECT: PUBLIC RELEASE OF FMS/MAP DETAILS ON JORDAN

REF STATE 108266

1. EMBASSY HAS NOT DISCUSSED MATTER WITH JORDANIANS, BUT AS MATTER OF GENERAL POLICY, GOJ IS SENSITIVE TO RELEASE OF ANY INFORMATION PERTAINING TO MILITARY AID AND FOREIGN MILITARY SALES PROGRAMS. WE BELIEVE RELEASE OF INFORMATION ON DETAILS OF MAP/FSM PROGRAMS FOR PARTICULARTLY CURRENT BUT ALSO PRIOR FISCAL YEARS WOULD CAUSE SOME PROBLEMS FOR JORDANIANS. THIS PRIMARILY IS BECAUSE JORDAN INFLATES ITS MILITARY EQUIPMENT FIGURES BEYOND THEIR ACTUAL STRENGTH IN ORDER TO IMPRESS OTHER ARAB STATES WITH JORDANIAN MILITARY POSTURE.

2. ALTHOUGH JORDANIANS WOULD NOT BE HAPPY, WE BELIEVE THEY WOULD POSSIBLY ACQUIESCE IF PRESENTED WITH FLAT
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USG DECISION TO RELEASE MAP/FMS DETAILS FOR ALL

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MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES MENTIONED IN REFTEL. WE COULD PRESENT DECISION TO RELEASE INFO AS REQUIRED TO BRING MIDEAST INTO LINE WITH USG WORLDWIDE POLICIES AND TO MAINTAIN A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH CONGRESS WHOSE CONTINUING COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO JORDAN.

3. BEFORE RELEASING FIGURES, WE WOULD WANT TO INFORM BOTH KING HUSSEIN AND CHIEF OF STAFF BIN SHAKER OF REASONS FOR OUR DECISION. WE WOULD OBVIOUSLY ALSO HAVE TO ASSURE THEM THAT OUR DISCLOSURE POLICY APPLIED EQUALLY TO ALL THE COUNTRIES MENTIONED IN REFTEL, PARTICULARLY INCLUDING ISREAL.
PICKERING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DISCLOSURE, INFORMATION CONTROL, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975AMMAN03181
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750168-0407
From: AMMAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750555/aaaabxnq.tel
Line Count: 75
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE 108266
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 AUG 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <26 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

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05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUBLIC RELEASE OF FMS/MAP DETAILS ON JORDAN
TAGS: MCAP, MASS, JO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006